Settlement of dispute over Siachen Glacier area between India and Pakistan

2134. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress, to date, in the settlement of dispute over Siachen Glacier area between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if not, what factors are impeding settlement of the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Two rounds of talks have been held between the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan and both sides have agreed to find a negotiated settlement of the issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement. It has also been agreed to meet again to continue the dialogue.

Modification of Electronics Policy

2135. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to modify the electronics policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the modifications being considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) At the moment there is no proposal to modify the basic principles of electronics policy. The main objective of Government in promoting the growth of electronics in the country is to increase productivity and efficiency in all key sectors of the national economy. In furtherance of this objective if any proposals are forthcoming which perhaps require some modification to the electronics policy, Government would not be averse to considering it.

Incidence of Leukaemia around Nuclear Power Plants

2136. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive survey regarding an increase in the incidence of leukaemia and other diseases in the vicinity of nuclear power plants has been made;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that according to a UK Government's investigation report the incidence of leukaemia among children near the nuclear power plants was ten times above the national average; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken by Government in view of these findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Comprehensive surveys have been carried out on employees and family members who reside in the Departmental Colony outside the exclusion Zone.

(b) Based on these medical records it can be said that there is no indication of any increase in leukaemia and cancer in the vicinity of nuclear power plants.

(c) There are no reports of increase in leukaemia among children living near nuclear power plants in the United Kingdom. However, there are reports that around Sellafiled, a Plu-